

Madam Speaker, this issue is also of personal importance because when I was a member of the New York State Assembly, I had envisioned a statewide office to assist new immigrants with overcoming these challenges. Now, I am expanding that vision to a national office and seeking to fix the systemic challenges immigrants and refugees must face.

Immigrants make indelible contributions to our nation, and it is long past time that we create an entity in the Executive Office of the President that ensures our country is welcoming and helpful toward those who come to our shores. While we aspire to be a beacon of hope and opportunity, we must match word with deed.

Madam Speaker, we cannot allow immigrants to be treated as an afterthought; we must ensure their path to becoming "New Americans" is clear and well resourced. After the atrocious last four years of an administration that demonized, criminalized, and dehumanized immigrants and refugees at every turn, my bill would ensure a welcoming and inclusive system for all new Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we look to building a more prosperous country that recognizes the humanity and dignity of all immigrants and refugees.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL RECORD

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the legendary Philadelphia International Record (PIR). One of music's most historic record labels.

Visionary song-writing producers Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff co-founded PIR in 1971. Together they engineered one of the most significant chapters in music history. The groundbreaking label gave birth to the sophisticated Philly Soul sound also known as "The Sound of Philadelphia." Patti LaBelle, Teddy Pendergrass, The O'Jays, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, Billy Paul, Lou Rawls and McFadden & Whitehead are just some of the stars who took the duo's distinguishing sound to the top of the charts.

The Gamble and Huff partnership began in 1963, when the two hardworking musicians from West Philly and Camden met in the elevator of the Shubert Building, which now houses the Merriam Theater. They were both toiling as writers for separate music production firms. They joined forces and became a potent songwriting/production team. The "Philly Soul" sound featured a mix of doo-wop, gospel, R&B, and sound known for its orchestral sounds.

Philadelphia Soul music is known for its incorporation of lush string arrangements along with penetrating brass, and often conveys very personal and emotional stories. The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra's string section was often employed to play on many of Philadelphia International Record's tracks. Philly Soul is widely considered a producer's genre. Everyone from the Jacksons to B.B. King to David Bowie came to Philadelphia seeking

Philly soul magic. Philadelphia was a center for pop music.

50 years since its inception, Philadelphia and the world are poised to celebrate the golden anniversary of the label. The anniversary will highlight the extraordinary musical output of the storied label and spotlight milestone musical moments, artists and songs from the remarkable Philadelphia International Records family that have defined the landmark label and its incredible impact over the past 50 years.

In 2014, Sony Music Entertainment announced their historic deal with Philadelphia International Records, securing global ownership of all recordings made for PIR. The landmark deal added all post-1975 PIR recordings to the PIR titles already owned by Sony Music Entertainment, reuniting the entirety of the Philadelphia International Recordings catalog under a single global licensing and reissue entity.

For nearly 30 years, Warner Chappell Music has had the privilege of representing Gamble and Huff and their legendary music catalog, which includes nearly 3000 songs. Their impact on the music industry is immeasurable.

To celebrate this milestone a flurry of projects will showcase the Philadelphia International brand and accord Gamble and Huff along with key collaborators like their "Mighty Three" partner Thom Bell—increased appreciation and respect as 20th century Black music pioneers on a par with giants like Motown's Berry Gordy. According to Kenny Gamble co-founder of Philadelphia International Records "It's a blessing to celebrate all the writers, musicians, engineers, disc jockey, and all the people that were on our team. When I listen to this music now. I can close my eyes and the music brings us all back together again. Hearing this music reminds me of all the hard work and dedication our team went through to make such a long-lasting catalog, that has been embraced by the world and I'm thankful."

I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to such an outstanding duo and celebrate the legacy that is Philadelphia International Records and The Sound of Philadelphia.

HARRY T. LEWIS, JR.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Harry T. Lewis, Jr., a long-time Denver business and civic leader, who passed away on November 11, 2020.

Harry was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to Margretta (Borrmann) and Harry T. Lewis. The family moved to Denver when Harry was two years old. Harry attended East High School and earned his A.B. in Art History from Dartmouth College and his M.B.A. from the Amos Tuck School of Business in 1956. He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy and spent most of his service stationed in Honolulu, HI.

Harry began his career in Denver in 1959 as a C.P.A. and spent the bulk of his career as an Investment Banker in Denver with Boettcher & Co. and Dain Bosworth. In 1990,

he established his own firm, Lewis Investments. Throughout his life and career, he held strong beliefs in the importance of giving back to the city and state he loved. He invested substantial time and expertise to multiple non-profit and civic organizations, guided by his viewpoint we should all strive to improve our quality of life and better the City of Denver. Harry served on numerous community boards including the Boettcher Foundation, Colorado Outward Bound School, C.S.U. Research Foundation, Colorado Forum, Dartmouth Association of the Great Divide, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Denver, Inc. and The Stapleton Foundation. In his personal life, he was an avid skier and fly fisherman, loved fine art, good wine and opera, and was a passionate gardener.

Harry Lewis was predeceased by his beloved wife, Tanya (deLuise) Lewis (2001) and a son, Colin M. Lewis (2016), and is survived by his son, Kevin H. Lewis, his daughter Valerie Lewis Savoie, and grandchildren Derek and Connor Lewis, Isabelle and Duncan Lewis and Julia and Cael McCarthy. I appreciate his lifetime service to our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEE WILSON

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, Lee Roy Wilson, 90, a longtime resident of Rule, TX, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021. A funeral service was held at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at the First Baptist Church, Rule with Rev. Scott Hensley officiating.

Lee Roy Wilson was born October 5, 1930 in Rule, TX to Okla (Nabors) and Roy Wilson; he was the last surviving child of 10. He married Frances (Wade) Wilson on November 14, 1953 in Pinkerton, TX and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage. Lee Roy served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After his discharge he worked in the oil field for 34 year as a production supervisor for Sojourner. He also farmed and worked as a hunting guide for many years. He loved hunting, gardening, and sharing his vegetables he raised with his friends and family. Lee Roy's greatest loves were God, his family, and the many friends he had. He loved being able to attend annual Wilson and Wade reunions so he could spend precious time with his family.

He is survived by his children, Melinda Casey, Roy Wilson (Becky), Fran McCown (Jerry); grandchildren, Sandy Anderson (Jody), Blayne Casey, Jeff Casey, Stefanie Bonds (Kelly), Lesli McCarroll (Ryan), Lee Taylor Wilson, Zach Tinnin (Sarah), Joey Wilson (Dusty), Cole McCown; great grandchildren, Callie Ervin (Matt), Tanner Anderson, Will Anderson, Addison Bonds, Kadyne Bonds, Knoxville Bonds, Braxton Wharry, Jaxon Wharry, Stephen McCarroll, Brendan Tinnin, Connor Tinnin, Gavin Tinnin, Shelby Wilson, Riley Wilson, Quaid Wilson; great-great grandchildren, Ace, Wade, and June Ervin; brothers-in-law, Don Wade (Sue), Sonny Wade; numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Frances; son, Johnny; granddaughter, Chelsea Tinnin; 2 brothers; and 7 sisters.